



Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, Report

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.52 pm): Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not delivering. The 2019 budget is a bad budget for Queenslanders. It was a budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. At a time when we have seen a major bed shortage and ongoing code yellows in hospitals across the state, it is staggering that the Queensland Health capital budget is being cut by more than \$200 million, compared with the budget for last year. Queensland Health was a basket case under Labor's Anna Bligh and it has been bedlam under Annastacia Palaszczuk.

Once again, we have seen a litany of Queensland Health digital disasters that is putting patient care at risk. It is not only the integrated electronic Medical Record rollout, it has now extended to other IT upgrades, with the latest debacle about the broken FAMMIS where we see staff putting band-aids on the bankcard. The LNP has consistently called for the Palaszczuk Labor government to halt the rollout of the ieMR, in line with calls from the AMAQ. While the minister takes his advice from spin doctors, we listen to calls from real doctors. We will always put patient care ahead of politics. The system is putting pressure on staff and impacting on clinical care provided to patients, putting their safety at risk.

The bungled rollout of the ieMR has also been mired in corruption allegations with the departure of the former CEO of eHealth Queensland who was responsible for the rollout of ieMR. We asked questions about the departure of the former CEO of eHealth Queensland, Dr Richard Ashby, which were not answered because of a current Crime and Corruption Commission investigation. That is despite advice from the Clerk earlier that day that any investigations by the CCC did not prevent ministers from answering questions in breach of sub judice standing orders.

In relation to the FAMMIS failure, Labor's latest IT debacle, the new system was over budget, a year late and it does not even work. From what we know, the failed replacement upgrade is causing chaos for staff in our hospitals. It was completely crazy to launch this new system in the middle of flu season. Labor cannot run the health system and it cannot run IT systems.

What is clear 10 years after the payroll debacle is that Labor has not learned a single thing. Our hospitals are overwhelmed most of the time and now staff are wasting precious time that should be spent on sick patients. Labor still has not fixed the payroll debacle and the electronic medical records system is a shambles. If I were Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk I would not let health minister Steven Miles touch a keyboard. Put simply, Labor and health and IT just do not mix.

During the estimates hearing, we raised concerns on behalf of some very distressed parents about the care of their baby who was born at the Rockhampton Hospital in July last year and allegations about incorrect insulin levels administered at the hospital. Those parents deserve answers around what happened to their little baby.

We tried to raise questions about the recent termination of the CEO of Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Dr Stephen Ayre. However, answers to our questions were not forthcoming and the unfair dismissal claim was used as an excuse. Let me assure those opposite that we will not be letting that issue go. We still maintain that the wrong Steven was sacked and it should have been the health minister who faced the axe. The debacle involving Dr Stephen Ayre is yet another example of Labor trying to hide behind bureaucrats to avoid accountability.

In relation to the recent patient document bungle in Metro North Hospital and Health Service, the estimates hearings revealed that the incident occurred on 20 June 2019, the minister's office was notified the same day and yet the public were not notified until 26 June. These were the documents—approximately 8,000 pages—that literally fell off the back of a truck.

It was also revealed that the Darling Downs HHS has no date for when maternity services will be restored at the Chinchilla Hospital, an issue that was raised last year as well. Regional families in the Chinchilla community deserve a lot better than they have seen from Labor. Dalby Hospital also recently went close to being on maternity bypass. It is the latest example of Labor's bush maternity crisis.

In relation to ice rehabilitation, the implementation of Labor's one and only new facility promised at the 2017 state election has been a complete and utter debacle. The Rockhampton community has voiced their concerns about Labor's proposed site for a new drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. Given the delays in finding a site for this project and the significant lack of consultation, the budget confirms that the project has now been delayed.

There have been incidents at Logan Hospital last year where we saw disputes between ambulance officers and nurses. This came about because of significant ambulance ramping, which has continued to rise under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The 2019 estimates hearings were dominated by the Palaszczuk Labor government's ongoing integrity crisis. In the 30th year since the Fitzgerald inquiry report was published, these latest scandals provide significant questions about the government's openness, transparency, accountability and integrity that have engulfed the leadership of the morally bankrupt Labor government.